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NEWS ITEMS

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton and Messrs. J. F. Cowell and Stewardson Brown sailed on January 30 for Porto Rico, where they will meet Professor N. Wille and carry on botanical exploration of that island.

Dr. J. Arthur Harris and Mr. John V. Lawrence sailed January 13 for a few weeks, work on the osmotic pressure of the cell saps of Jamaican rain forest plants, which are to be studied in comparison with the flora of the vicinity of Tucson, Arizona.

Two prizes of \$100 each are offered for photographs of large, wild, native trees in the United States, by two members of the American Genetic Association, who are interested in forestry and wish to secure data along somewhat novel lines. These prizes are to be awarded as follows: One hundred dollars for photographs of the largest nut-bearing tree. This includes chestnuts, oaks, walnuts, butternuts, pecans, etc. One hundred dollars for photographs of the largest shade or forest tree, not nut-bearing. This includes such trees as the elm, beech [sic], poplar, tulip-poplar ("yellow poplar" or "tulip tree"), etc. Photographs of conifers will not be considered. All photographs must be submitted to the *Journal of Heredity* before July 1, 1915, and will become the property of the Association. Information may be had at the office of the *Journal of Heredity*, Washington, D. C.

On January 30 the "Flora of the Vicinity of New York: A contribution to Plant Geography," by Norman Taylor, was issued as volume five of the memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden. The Introduction states that "All of the native and introduced species contained in the manuals have been included, besides many more, mentioned in notes." The book, which contains 683 pages, may be purchased at the New York Botanical Garden and the price is two dollars.

At a meeting held at St. Louis on December 28, 1914, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology adopted the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, Various of the European nations with which many

of our members are related by birth, descent, or intellectual friendship are now at war

Resolved, That we extend to the scientific men within these nations the hope of an early and enduring peace, which will leave the nations with no permanent cause of rancor towards each [sic] other, and which will insure to each the glories of scientific and humanitarian achievement in accordance with its own conception of these ideals.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has recently received a shipment of rare cycadaceous plants from the east coast of Australia. The plants left Rockhampton, New South Wales, on July 29, 1914, and arrived in New York the middle of February. They were twice unloaded en route, once at Sydney and again at Port Said to release the ships for transporting troops to the war. In spite of the long delay they appear to be in fairly healthy condition and most of them are expected to live. The plants are mature specimens of *Macrozamia Moorei*, which is all but extinct, *Cycas meadia*, *Macrozamia spiralis*, and *Bowenia serrulata*. As living members of an extremely ancient group of plants these specimens are very interesting additions to the garden's collections.

We regret to record the death of Dr. Charles E. Bessey, for more than thirty years the professor of botany at the University of Nebraska. He died at Lincoln on the evening of February 25. "Dr. Bessey was born at Milton, Wayne County, Ohio, May 21, 1845, the son of Adnah and Margaret Ellenberger Bessey. He was graduated from the Michigan Agricultural College in 1869, and from 1871 to 1873 and again from 1875 to 1876 he studied with Dr. Asa Gray at Harvard. In 1898 Iowa College conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D. From 1870 to 1884 he was professor of botany at Iowa Agricultural College and in 1882 acting president. In 1884 he went to the University of Nebraska as professor of botany. Dr. Bessey was botanical editor of the *American Naturalist* from 1880 to 1897, and had been botanical editor of *Science* since 1897. He was a member of the Nebraska Rural Life Commission from 1911 to 1913,

president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science from 1910 to 1911, of the Botanical Society of America from 1895 to 1896, of the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science, from 1889 to 1891, of the department of natural science of the National Education Association, from 1895 to 1896, and of the American Microscopical Society in 1902. Dr. Bessey was also a member of the Botanical Seminar of the University of Nebraska, the Academy of Science of St. Louis, the Washington Academy of Sciences, the Wild-Flower Preservation Society, the American Forestry Association, the American Breeders' Association, Phi Beta Kappa, and of Sigma Xi." (*Evening Post*.) On August 1, 1912, Dr. Bessey was in New York and was the guest of honor at a dinner given by Dr. Britton to about a dozen botanists who were in town at the time. Those who were present and heard Dr. Bessey reply to the toast "The Nestor of American Botany," will remember his plea for sound scholarship and a greater vision in our work, and particularly his earnest advice to "stick at it." Dr. Bessey has probably turned out more successful professional botanists than any other teacher in America, and his text-books are known wherever botany is taught. He was a member of the Torrey Club for many years. An account of Dr. Bessey's life will appear in an early number of *TORREYA*.

Dr. Alfred Dachnowski, in charge of plant physiology at Ohio State University, has been granted a year's leave of absence; he is continuing his investigations at the Carnegie Desert Botanical Laboratory, Tucson, Arizona, under a grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The International Botanical Congress, which was to have been held in London during the coming season, and the International Phytogeographic Excursion, which was to have toured the Alps, have both been postponed on account of the war.

Professor LeRoy Abrams, of Stanford University, is preparing a descriptive manual of the Pacific coast trees and shrubs. F. V. Coville, C. R. Ball and S. B. Parish are contributing the text for *Ribes*, *Salix*, and the cacti.